

**SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR GENERATING TRUSTED AND
AUTHENTICATABLE TIME STAMPS FOR ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS**

Abstract of the Disclosure

A trusted time infrastructure system provides time stamps for electronic documents from a local source. The system comprises a trusted master clock, a trusted local clock, and a network operations center. The trusted master clock and network operations center are located within secure environments controlled by a trusted third party. The trusted local clock may be located in an insecure environment. The trusted master clock is certified to be synchronized with an accepted time standard, such as a national time server. The trusted local clock, which issues time stamps, is certified to be synchronized with the trusted master clock. Time stamps and certifications are signed by the issuing device using public key cryptography to enable subsequent authentication. The network operations center logs clock certifications and responds to requests for authentication of time stamps.

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